



Leadership Reorganizing to Represent You With Transparency

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Responding to agencies and stakeholders, the FPA Executive Oversight Group (EOG) is in the process of changing the way it conducts business. First, there's the name change from the EOG to the Oversight Group (OG). Next, the membership is more inclusive, better representing the field and fire program elements. Instead of two co-chairs leading the way, the new OG utilizes a five-person board of directors and the meetings are open to stakeholders. This reorganization is formalized in a Charter that is in the final stages of being drafted. The OG board of directors briefs the Federal Fire Policy Council on October 12, 2010 in Washington, D.C., and it seeks signatures on the Charter and acceptance of this path forward from each agency executive. The OG then remains in D.C. for the October Oversight Group meeting on October 13 and 14. It is also about to release a competitive position announcement for an OG Executive Director. Take a look at the proposed Charter's organizational chart:

Proposed FPA Oversight Group Board of Directors	
DOI	USFS
Director , Office of Wildland Fire Coordinator	Associate Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry
Interagency Fire Executive Council Representative	Director, Fire and Aviation Management or Designee
Bureau Fire Director Representative (1)	
FPA Oversight Group Executive Director - <i>FS/DOI Ex-officio member</i>	
Proposed FPA Oversight Group Associate Members	
Senior Budget Analyst, OWFC	Branch Chief, Planning & Budget, Fire and Aviation Management
Bureau Fire Budget Lead (1)	National Program/Budget Representative
Bureau National Planner (1)	
Program Manager, FPA	
Management Advisory Team (MAT)	
Interagency Science Team (IST) Lead	
Interagency Analysis Team (IAT) Co-lead (1 of the Co-leads)	

Due Dates: Optional FPU & FWA Boundary Shapefiles

- **October 14, 2010** is the deadline for those FPUs who have chosen to change their **FPU boundaries** for the **2012 Analysis**.
- On **October 29th, 2010** FPUs can start submitting their **FWA boundary shapefile changes**.
- **November 26th, 2010** is the final day that FPUs can submit their FWA boundary shapefile changes.
See Page 4 for information about actions you may need to take before the due dates.

Reducing Impact on FPUs: Analysis Working Team

On Aug. 26, the FPA Oversight Group (OG) approved the creation of a nationally coordinated Analysis Working Team (AWT) as proposed by the Interagency Fire Planning Committee, National Fire Budget Leads, and FPA Business Leads. The AWT should reduce the workload on FPUs while still providing quality analysis for use in the FPA system.

The AWT will run the analysis on behalf of the FPUs, after close consultation with each FPU.

While details are still being developed, it is anticipated that the AWT will consist of approximately eight highly skilled analysts. It is expected the members will make a six to eight month commitment to the team, and may be allowed to work in a virtual environment. Nominations for team members are being coordinated through the

Geographic Area Leads.

Expected AWT benefits of this new model include:

- Substantially reducing the field-level workload, allowing FPUs to focus on other duties,
- FPUs focusing on quality inputs and outputs; instead of dealing with the day to day complexities of running the model,
- Ensuring consistency across analyses.

Recognizing this concept is a paradigm shift for all involved, there is a strong commitment to maintain close working relationships with the FPUs.

The need for continuing with the AWT will be re-evaluated once the FPA model is stable and functioning as intended.

Please contact your Geographic Area (GA) Lead if you are interested in joining the AWT.

Year 2 Stakeholder's Review – Next Steps

FPA meets with Stakeholder representatives Sept. 28th - 30th to finalize suggested action items and to rectify issues identified in the Year 2 Stakeholder's Review Workshop .

The Stakeholder's Workshop took place in late June and the final report was issued shortly thereafter. The stakeholders looked at what worked well, and which areas of the

system need improvement. Workshop participants recommended that a small group of stakeholders act as representatives to focus on specific action items.

Many thanks to our volunteers, Bill Johnson, Laura Barrett, Josh O'Connor, Karen Short, and Tate Fischer.

FPA Springboard for Scholz Career Path

Keeping pace with other professionals who worked at the Fire Program Analysis and went on to land bigger jobs, Donna Scholz is now the Chief of Staff for Customs and Border Protection in the Department of Homeland Security. Donna joined the FPA Team as the Executive Project Manager on October 16, 2006. Donna's background in IT project management and implementation of remote sensing/GIS in natural resource management was a great benefit to the FPA project. Donna's office will be in Washington, DC. She will be in temporary quarters for 2-3 months near the Yellow Metro line. Friends visiting DC should contact one of the FPA Team members. They can reach Donna so she can contact you for lunch or dinner.



FPA System: Enhancement in Progress

This summer, FPA continued addressing stakeholder's issues and concerns. The FPA team in Boise has been testing and implementing these changes.

Specific changes of interest to FPU:

- The FPA system now holds the FPU Leadership, Support, and Facilities O&M costs constant in the Preparedness and Fuels options to be in line with earlier interagency guidance. These costs are automatically copied from the FPU planner-entered *.Current* alternative to all investment options.
- Production rate factors for hardwood litter fuel types TL2 and TL6 have been adjusted to match the published NWCG fuel models 8 & 9 production rates.
- In the Initial Response Simulation model (IRS), the user-entered coefficients for diurnal and rate of spread adjustments are now applied at the time of discovery of a fire. Previous to this change, these adjustments were applied when fire resources first arrived at the ignition.
- Adjustments were made to the containment portion of the IRS model to allow short duration resources (e.g. aerial) to model more accurately.
- The option to model fires as Wildland Fire Use (WFU) has been removed from the FPA to be in line with National Fire Policy. In IRS, all reference to WFU is removed. All previous WFU candidate ignitions now "compete" for resources in IRS, affecting those outcomes. In the Large Fire Model (LFM), fires that formerly were treated as WFU are now part of the IRS outputs that are passed over to the LFM and treated accordingly. Initial tests indicate that only a handful of FPUs are adversely affected by this change.
- Fires passed from IRS to the LFM due to size or time exceedances now have their final fire size calculated to take into account the FPUs' FWA exceeds simulation limits settings.

Terminology Change: FMUs are Now FMGs

In FPA system, the term **Fire Management Unit (FMU)** has been changed to **Fire Management Group (FMG)**. Fire Management Plans and FPA both use the concept of Fire Management Units, but their definitions and application of the term varies. In order to alleviate confusion, FPA has changed the term FMU to Fire Management Group (FMG). For FPA, only the term FMU is changed; the definition, concept, and system implementation remains the same. For more information on Fire Management Groups , see http://www.fpa.nifc.gov/Library/Papers/Docs/FPA_2/WP_Define_FMG_YR3_2010_08_18_web.pdf



LANDFIRE has just posted on its **WEB** a document that helps users decipher product versions. This document is aimed at the general users. LANDFIRE has received customer feedback that some users would appreciate even more details, perhaps in a follow up chart. Please take a look at: http://www.landfire.gov/version_comparison.php

Optional Boundary FWA Shapefile Validation Tool

An updated version of the FWA Shapefile Validation Tool is available on the FPA website. The purpose of this tool is to detect errors, overlap, and size issues in the design of your FWAs. **If you are making revisions to your FWA shapefiles this fall, you must run this tool after making your revisions.** You will need to make any corrections highlighted by the tool prior to submission. When you have completed updating the changes to your Fire Planning Unit (FPU) Boundary shapefile, please compress the associated files that compose the shapefile using WinZip, WinRAR, or a similar file compression utility. Be sure to create a compressed file with a *.ZIP syntax extension. Then send the file as an attachment in an email to: craig_thompson@nps.gov or call Craig at 208-947-3763. These ZIP files are usually small in size and transport easily through email services.

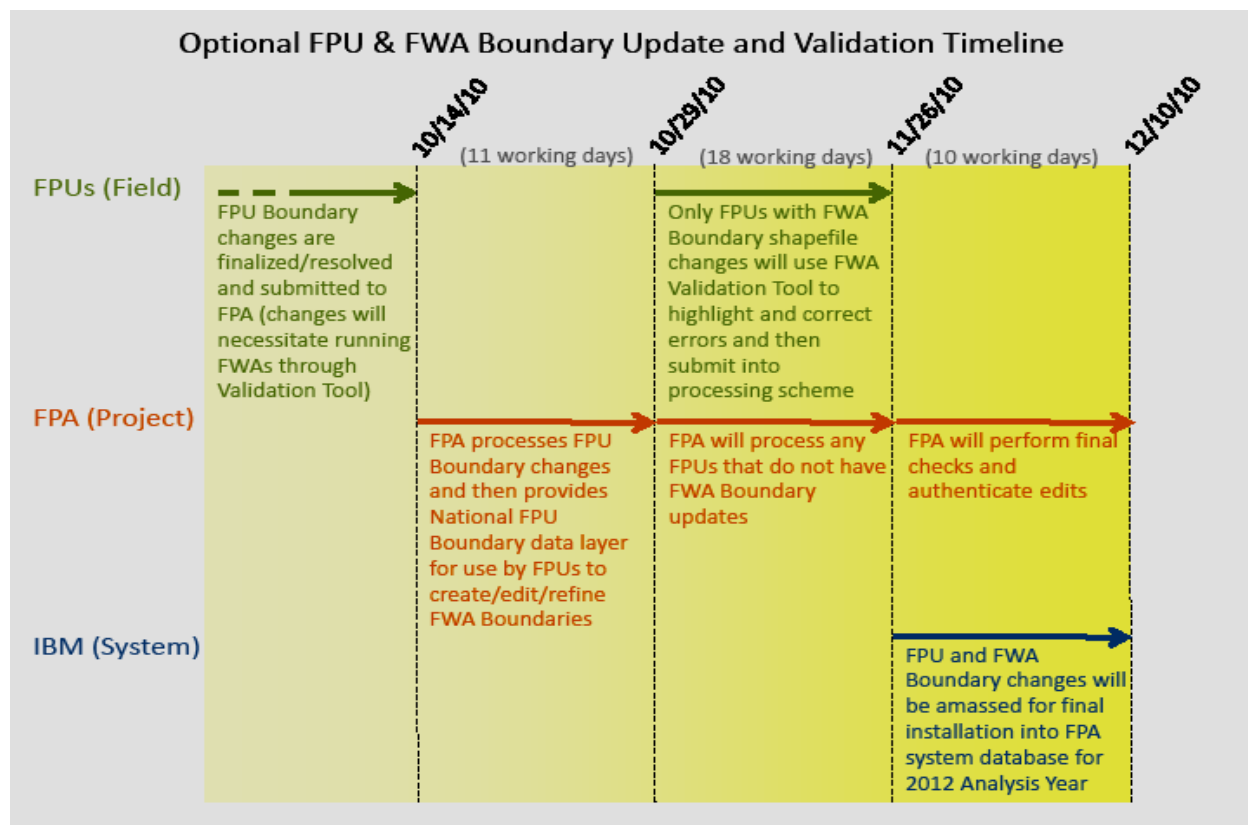
For those FPUs who are not making changes to their FWA shapefiles this fall, do nothing. FPA will perform the shapefile validation for you. FPUs will be contacted if there are issues. We don't expect to see many issues with the new criteria on shapefile sizes, as a test run found a small number of discrepancies.

The additional validation criteria for FWA shapefiles include:

- ◆ All FWAs must be a minimum of 30 acres.
- ◆ No FWA can be larger than 30,000,000 acres.
- ◆ The minimum size for a discontinuous polygon associated with an FWA is one acre.
- ◆ The maximum number of discontinuous polygons associated to a single FWA must not exceed 500 polygons.

For more information on updating your FWA boundaries, see the following:

- Planners can find the FWA Shapefile Validation Tool and user information at: <http://www.fpa.nifc.gov/Library/Documentation/index.html>.
- For information on developing FWA shapefiles, go to: http://www.fpa.nifc.gov/Library/Papers/Docs/FPA_2/WP_FWA_FMU_revised_final_9_15_10.pdf



Former TV Journalist Joins FPA as Communications Director

Pamela Mathis wraps up a 120 day detail in October as the **Communications Director for both FPA and LANDFIRE**. Mathis is the Public Affairs Specialist and Fire Operation's Public Information Officer for BLM's Phoenix District. Prior to joining BLM, she served as Governor Guerrero's Press Secretary in the Northern Mariana Islands, handling international protocol and media. Mathis is an award-winning TV anchor/reporter, having worked throughout Idaho, Nevada, Montana, and Asia. Within FPA, she focuses attention on bridging communications to and from stakeholders to oversight leadership and identification of leadership intentions for budget allocations. She has also gathered valuable feedback from LANDFIRE users that is currently being evaluated for program improvements. She continues to seek suggestions for communication plans for both programs. Email her at: pamela_mathis@blm.gov



FPA System Reference:

- ☑ Contact the FPA system helpdesk at fire_help@fs.fed.us or at: 1-800-253-5559.
- ☑ Check out the FPA **"Quick Start"** instruction guide. The Quick Start instruction guide walks FPU's through the initial FPA process with reference and instructional links.
- ☑ Review the **FPA White Papers**. These papers will describe how the model uses different resources, fuel treatments, or data.
- ☑ The FPA **User Guide** is available on the FPA web site. It walks the user through the system step by step.

Fire Program Analysis (FPA) system is a common interagency decision support tool for wildland fire planning and budgeting. This tool will enable wildland fire managers in the five federal land management agencies to plan jointly.

For more information visit
<http://fpa.nifc.gov>
or call
208-947-3757

Questions or Concerns?

Send us your feedback!

Email: fa_fpa@nifc.blm.gov